IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method for automated underwriting of <u>a portfolio of</u> segmentable, financial instrument assets using a portfolio valuation system, <u>the portfolio valuation system including a computer coupled to a database,</u> said method comprising the steps of:

defining clusters of ~~financial instruments~~ <u>assets</u> by common attributes<u>, wherein each defined cluster includes assets having common attributes</u>;

<u>utilizing the computer to perform analytics that enable a selection of sample assets from each defined cluster for valuation purposes;</u>

receiving <u>at the computer a value assigned to each sample asset which is based on</u> an expert opinion ~~of value from selected samples of the clusters~~; <u>and</u>

<u>performing an underwriting process on each sample asset using the expert opinion including determining whether each sample asset includes a combination of attributes and includes any additional attributes, analyzing each sample asset having a combination of attributes, and reconciling the value assigned to each sample asset having a combination of attributes.</u>

~~checking values for combinations of attributes; and~~

~~reconciling the values.~~

2. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of selecting and setting individual attributes to be used for ~~the underwriting~~ <u>valuing each asset included in the portfolio based on the underwriting of each sample asset</u>.

3. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2 further comprising the step of classifying ~~individual~~ <u>the</u> assets into clusters <u>based on the selected individual attributes</u>.

4. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 3 further comprising the step of valuing each asset included in each cluster based on the value assigned to each sample asset from the underwriting process ~~applying a cluster valuation to each cluster asset~~.

5. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

~~desegregating values using a rule~~ combining the assets based on at least one of the value of each asset and the selected individual attributes; and

creating a credit analyst table ~~with the desegregated values~~ based on the combined assets.

6. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 5 further comprising the step of using the credit analyst table to establish at least one asset class.

7. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of defining clusters of ~~financial instruments~~ assets by common attributes further comprises the step of identifying clusters of assets with common characteristics using business rules.

8. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving at the computer a value assigned to each sample asset which is based on an expert opinion ~~an expert opinion of value~~ further comprises the step of evaluating the assets by computer with the assistance from an experienced underwriter.

9. (currently amended) A portfolio valuation system for automated underwriting of segmentable, financial instrument assets, said system comprising:

a computer configured as a server and further configured with a database of asset portfolios; and

at least one client system connected to said server through a network, said server configured to:

define clusters of ~~financial instruments~~ assets by common attributes wherein each defined cluster includes assets having common attributes,

select sample assets from each defined cluster for valuation purposes,

receive <u>a value assigned to each sample asset which is based on</u> an expert opinion ~~of value from selected samples of the clusters~~, <u>and</u>

<u>perform an underwriting process on each sample asset using the expert opinion including determining whether each sample asset includes a combination of attributes and includes any additional attributes, analyzing each sample asset having a combination of attributes, and reconciling the value assigned to each sample asset having a combination of attributes.</u>

~~check values for combinations of attributes and~~

~~reconcile the values of the samples.~~

10. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said server is <u>further</u> configured to select and set individual attributes to be used for ~~the underwriting~~ <u>valuing each asset included in the portfolio based on the underwriting of each sample asset</u>.

11. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 10 wherein said server is <u>further</u> configured to classify ~~individual~~ <u>the</u> assets into clusters <u>based on the selected individual attributes</u>.

12. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server is <u>further</u> configured to <u>value each asset included in each cluster based on the value assigned to each sample asset from the underwriting process</u> ~~apply a cluster valuation to each cluster asset~~.

13. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 12 wherein said server is configured to:

~~desegregate values using a rule~~ <u>combine the assets based on at least one of the value of each asset and the selected individual attributes</u>; and

create a credit analyst table ~~with the desegregated values~~ <u>based on the combined assets</u>.

14. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server is <u>further</u> configured to use the credit analyst table <u>to</u> establish at least one asset class.

15. (original) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said server is configured to identify clusters of assets with common characteristics using business rules.

16. (original) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said server is configured to evaluate the assets with assistance from an experienced underwriter.

17. (currently amended) A computer for automated underwriting of segmentable, financial instrument assets, said computer including a database of asset portfolios, said computer programmed to:

define clusters of ~~financial instruments~~ assets by common attributes <u>wherein each defined cluster includes assets having common attributes</u>;

<u>select sample assets from each defined cluster for valuation purposes</u>;

receive <u>a value assigned to each sample asset which is based on</u> an expert opinion ~~of value from selected samples of the clusters~~; <u>and</u>

<u>perform an underwriting process on each sample asset using the expert opinion including determining whether each sample asset includes a combination of attributes and includes any additional attributes, analyzing each sample asset having a combination of attributes, and reconciling the value assigned to each sample asset having a combination of attributes.</u>

~~check values for combinations of attributes; and~~

~~reconcile the values of the samples.~~

18. (currently amended) A computer according to Claim 17 programmed to select and set individual attributes to be used for ~~the underwriting~~ <u>valuing each asset included in the portfolio based on the underwriting of each sample asset</u>.

19. (currently amended) A computer according to Claim 18 programmed to classify ~~individual~~ <u>the</u> assets into clusters <u>based on the selected individual attributes</u>.

20. (currently amended) A computer according to Claim 19 programmed to <u>value each asset included in each cluster based on the value assigned to each sample asset from the underwriting process</u> ~~apply a cluster valuation to each cluster asset~~.

21. (currently amended) A computer according to Claim 20 programmed to:

~~desegregate values using a rule~~ <u>combine the assets based on at least one of the value of each asset and the selected individual attributes</u>; and

create a credit analyst table ~~with the desegregated values~~ <u>based on the combined assets</u>.

22. (currently amended) A computer according to Claim 21 programmed to use the credit analyst table <u>to</u> establish at least one asset class.

23. (original) A computer according to Claim 17 programmed to identify clusters of assets with common characteristics using business rules.

24. (original) A computer according to Claim 17 programmed to evaluate the assets with assistance from an experienced underwriter.